

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:MLEVITSKY:REH

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H - MR. GOLDBERG

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R 131321Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UR, US

SUBJECT: VIKTOR HERMAN CASE

1. SENATOR BENNET JOHNSON'S OFFICE HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT FOR REPORT ON PRESS HANDLING OF VIKTOR HERMAN CASE. ACCORDING TO SENATOR'S STAFF, HE WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRIOR TO HERMAN'S DEPARTURE AND WHEN EXIT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED TO STAFF THAT NO COMMENT BE VOLUNTEERED UNTIL HERMAN HAD ACTUALLY LEFT USSR. SENATOR JOHNSON LATER BECAME AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS CITING EMBASSY MOSCOW AS SOURCE OF STORY THAT HERMAN WOULD BE GRANTED EXIT BEFORE HE DEPARTED AND WAS CONCERNED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS NOT FOLLOWING ITS OWN ADVICE TO HIS STAFF.

2. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS NOT SEEN PRESS REPORTS ON HERMAN CASE, BUT WHEN ASKED IN SUCH CASES, NORMALLY ADVISES THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO WAIT UNTIL PERSON LEAVES TO MAKE COMMENT TO PRESS. END FYI

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY WHICH COULD BE PASSED TO SENATOR JOHNSON'S OFFICE. KISSINGER
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